

VARIETIES OF *BALLOTA NIGRA* IN THE EASTERN UNITED STATES — The Black Horehound, *Ballota nigra* L., common in western Europe both native and as a weed, is an uncommon weed in the eastern and southeastern United States, probably originally introduced mostly on ballast. Although no varieties or forms are mentioned in the eighth edition of Gray's Manual, it does occur in two rather easily distinguishable forms, which are called in the New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora var. *foetida* Vis. and var. *ruderalis* Koch, but these names are not correct. The former has the calyx lobes short and abruptly cuspidate at the apex, whereas the latter has them long-triangular and gradually acuminate.

Dr. A. Patzak, of the Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien, published some time ago a revision of *Ballota*,<sup>1</sup> in which seven subspecies of *B. nigra* L. are recognized. Recently, a number of plants introduced into the United States were submitted to Dr. Patzak for study, and came back annotated partly as subsp. *foetida* Hayek and partly subsp. *nigra*. There can be no question as to the correctness of the latter name; as a variety it would be called var. *nigra*, of which var. *ruderalis* (Swartz) Koch is a synonym. The former name is not a new entity with Hayek (Repert. Sp. Nov. Fedde Beih. 30 (2) : 278. 1929), but was based ultimately on *Ballota foetida* Lam. (Fl. Franc. 2: 381. 1778), which was merely a change of name for *B. nigra* L., and was thus superfluous when published and illegitimate. However, an originally illegitimate epithet like *foetida* can be validated in another category by a later author, who in this instance appears to be Koch, who published the variety *B. nigra* L. var. *foetida* Koch (Syn. Fl. Germ. Helv. 572. 1837), which must be considered as a new variety and not a transfer of *B. foetida* Lam. The authority for the combination *B. nigra* subsp. *foetida* should therefore be (Koch) Hayek, rather than merely Hayek.

<sup>1</sup>"Revision der Gattung *Ballota* Section *Ballota*," Annal. Naturhist. Mus. Wien 62: 57-86. 1958.

When this plant is considered to be a variety, as such plants commonly are in floras of the eastern United States, the epithet will not be the same. Hayek was the first (apparently, according to Patzak's synonymy) to propose a subspecific epithet, and *foetida* thus has priority in this rank, but there were earlier varietal names proposed for this plant. Linnaeus himself realized, after the publication of *B. nigra* in the *Species Plantarum* of 1753, that there were two entities involved, and for the second he proposed *Ballota alba* L. (*Fl. Suec.* ed. 2, 206. 1775), which is the plant with short, cuspidate calyx lobes that is called subsp. *foetida* by Patzak. As a variety its correct name will be *B. nigra* L. var. *alba* (L.) J. E. Smith (*Brit. Fl.* 2: 635. 1804).

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### PASPALUM MINUS (GRAMINEAE) IN LOUISIANA AND MISSISSIPPI<sup>1</sup>

Recently I reported Mobile, Alabama as a new location for *Paspalum minus* Fourn. (Banks, 1964). In the United States the species had been known previously in eastern Texas, near Fannett, Beaumont, and Anahuac. According to Jones et al. (1961), *P. minus* was collected by Silveus in Aransas county in southeastern Texas. My Mobile collection extended the range of the species considerably but appeared to be isolated from the other locations.

Last summer, while I was collecting plants for my *Paspalum* studies, I found *P. minus* growing in Louisiana and Mississippi. The Mississippi collection was made two days after the Louisiana one during a field trip with Dr. Thomas Pullen, Department of Biology, University of Mississippi.

<sup>1</sup>Contribution No. 64 from the Stephen F. Austin State College Department of Biology.